

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LIMA 00641 251830Z
ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 EB-08 TRSE-00 SCA-01 EUR-12 AID-05
IGA-02 /067 W
-----252017Z 040476 /44
R 251625Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3447

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMA 0641

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EINV, BDIS, PE
SUBJECT: LE TOURNEAU FOUNDATION DISCUSSES CLAIM AGAINST GOP

1. SUMMARY: REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LE TOURNEAU FOUNDATION OF THE U.S. AND LE TOURNEAU DEL PERU CALLED ON AMBASSADOR AND ECON OFFICER TO DISCUSS CLAIM WHICH LE TOURNEAU HAS AGAINST GOP FOR NON-PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION RELATED TO 1969 EXPROPRIATION OF LE TOURNEAU PROPERTY, TOURNAVISTA, UNDER PERUVIAN AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM. LE TOURNEAU REPS CLAIM TO HAVE APPOINTMENT THIS WEEK WITH PERUVIAN PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ AND HOPE TO OBTAIN HIS COMMITMENT TO HAVE GOP PAY COMPENSATION. THEY INDICATE THAT THEY WILL BE ASKING FOR FORMAL USG ASSISTANCE IF GOP DOES NOT REACT FAVORABLY. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFO DEPARTMENT HAS ON LE TOURNEAU ACTIVITIES IN PERU IN GENERAL AND THIS CASE IN PARTICULAR. END SUMMARY.

2. DR. KENN W. OPPERMAN, DIRECTOR, AND H. RON DAVIDSON, JR., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LE TOURNEAU FOUNDATION, WITH OFFICES IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA, CALLED ON AMBASSADOR JAN. 21 TO DISCUSS THE LE TOURNEAU CASE. THE SAME GENTLEMEN, ACCOMPANIED BY ALVIN RAHMEL, GENERAL MANAGER, LE TOURNEAU DEL PERU, INC., CALLED ON ECON OFFICER JAN. 24. OPPERMAN ALSO
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LIMA 00641 251830Z

IS PRESIDENT OF TOCCOA FALLS COLLEGE, TOCCOA FALLS, GEORGIA, AND IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS AN EVANGELICAL ORGANIZATION. THE CANADIAN AMBASSADOR HAS INFORMED US THAT OPPERMAN IS A CANADIAN CITIZEN AND HAS ALREADY MADE SIMILAR CALL ON CANADIAN EMBASSY.

3. ACCORDING TO LE TOURNEAU REPS, THE FORMER LE TOURNEAU

PROPERTY IN PERU, TOURNAVISTA, WAS EXPROPRIATED BY THE VELASCO GOVERNMENT UNDER PERU'S AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM. COMPENSATION HAD BEEN PAID TO THE COMPANY FOR THE LIVESTOCK AND INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE COMPLEX. HOWEVER, LE TOURNEAU HAD BUILT A HIGHWAY CONNECTING THE FARM TO A NEARBY PERUVIAN TOWN. ACCORDING TO OPPERMAN, THE COST OF THE PORTION OF THE ROAD COMPLETED BY THE TIME OF EXPROPRIATION WAS ABOUT \$5 MILLION. THE GOP HAD AT FIRST REFUSED TO PAY FOR THE ROAD, CLAIMING THAT IT HAD NOT BEEN COMPLETED. THE COMPANY CLAIMED COMPENSATION FOR THE COST OF THE CONSTRUCTION UP TO THAT POINT. ACCORDING TO THE COMPANY REPS, THE PERUVIAN TRIBUNAL AGRARIA, THE COMPETENT COURT REGARDING AGRARIAN REFORM CASES, HAD DECIDED IN THE COMPANY'S FAVOR. HOWEVER, THE GOP, ALTHOUGH IT DID NOT CONTEST THE COURT DECISION NOR PUBLICLY STATE THAT IT WOULD NOT PAY, NEVER INDICATED THAT IT WOULD HONOR THE DECISION AND HAS NOT TAKEN ACTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH TRIBUNAL'S DECISION.

4. ACCORDING TO MR. RAHMEL THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION, THROUGH WHICH HE PURSUES THE CASE, DRAGS ITS FEET IN THE MATTER. HE SAID THAT THIS DELAYING TACTIC IS THE RESULT OF INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN BY PRESIDENT VELASCO. HE SAID THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO INDICATION THAT THE MINISTRY WOULD MOVE ANY FASTER UNDER THE MORALES BERMUDEZ PRESIDENCY.

5. THE LE TOURNEU REPS SAID THAT THEY HAD AN APPOINTMENT LATER THIS WEEK WITH PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION. THEY SAID THAT THEY WOULD OFFER HIM A PROPOSAL WHEREBY HALF OF THE COMPENSATION PAYMENT WOULD REMAIN IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 LIMA 00641 251830Z

PERU TO BE USED FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A "MINI-UNIVERSITY" WITH TIES TO THE CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE. OPPERMAN ALSO SHOWED AMBASSADOR POWER OF ATTORNEY PAPERS GIVEN HIM BY LE TOURNEAU IN CONNECTION WITH THE CASE AND ALSO ADMITTED CANDIDLY THAT FIFTY PERCENT OF THE U.S. PORTION OF ANY COMPENSATION OBTAINED WOULD BE TURNED OVER TO HIS TOCCOA FALLS COLLEGE, OPPERMAN ALSO INDICATED THAT PATIENCE HERETOFORE SHOWN BY COMPANY TOWARD GOP DELAYS WOULD NOT CONTINUE MUCH LONGER AND THAT LE TOURNEAU WOULD PROBABLY SEEK FORMAL USG ASSISTANCE IN CASE IF MORALES BERMUDEZ' REACTION IS NOT SATISFACTORY TO COMPANY. OPPERMAN ALSO STATED THAT LARGE NUMBER OF IMPORTANT PERUVIANS SUPPORT HIS "MINI-UNIVERSITY" PROJECT, BUT HE ADMITTED THAT NONE OF THESE PEOPLE WERE USING INFLUENCE TO HAVE GOP PAY COMPENSATION CLAIM.

5. OPPERMAN INDICATED THAT HE AND DAVIDSON WOULD BE CALLING ON DEPARTMENT WITHIN NEXT THREE WEEKS TO DISCUSS CASE. AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED HE CALL ON DAVID GANTZ, L/EUR, BECAUSE OF GANTZ'S EXPERIENCE IN EXPROPRIATION MATTERS IN

PERU. OPPERMAN ALSO SAID HE WOULD REPORT TO US ON RESULTS OF MEETING WITH MORALES BERMUDEZ.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY FILES CONTAIN NOTHING ON LE TOURNEAU OR TOURNAVISTA. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION DEPARTMENT COULD PROVIDE US REGARDING THIS BACKGROUND ON LE TOURNEAU ACTIVITIES IN PERU AND CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE. IN LIGHT OF OPPERMAN'S CANADIAN TIES WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE INFORMATION REGARDING NATIONALITY OF COMPANY.
DEAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CLAIMS, NATIONALIZATION, COMPENSATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LIMA00641
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770027-0324
Format: TEL
From: LIMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770121/aaaaashu.tel
Line Count: 126
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0c759ed1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION L
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Apr-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3512967
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LE TOURNEAU FOUNDATION DISCUSSES CLAIM AGAINST GOP
TAGS: EINV, BDIS, PE, US, LE TOURNEAU FOUNDATION
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0c759ed1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009